LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 32 wherein the step of determining said [[one]] program is a predictive process based on a frequency measure of previously watched programs

3. (Currently Amended)The method of claim [[1]] 32 wherein the step of determining said one program of interest is a predictive process based on specific programs watched.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 32 wherein the step of determining said one program of interest is a predictive process based on the genre of programs watched.

5. (Currently Amended)The method of claim [[1]] 32 wherein the step of determining said one program of interest is a predictive process based on the recommendations of other users.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the recommendations of other users are extracted from Web Log entries.

7. (Original)The method of claim 5 wherein the recommendations of other users are extracted from one or more messages from an instant messaging service.

8. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the recommendations of other users are extracted from on-line reviews.

9. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the recommendations of other users are extracted from one or more email messages.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the program is not selected by the user.

11. (Currently Amended) A method for buffering in a media recorder, the method comprising the steps of:

determining, within a timeslot, that at least one channel ~~of interest to~~ is being watched by a user, wherein said channel has not been preselected by the user for recording;

buffering a portion of a program on said channel during a corresponding later time slot, said portion being shorter than the duration of said time slot;

detecting if a user starts watching said program during said later time slot; and

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terminating said buffering at the end of said portion if no user starts watching said program prior to the end of said portion.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the step of determining said one channel is based on a list of channels most recently viewed by the user.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11 wherein the step of determining said one channel is ~~a predictive process~~ based on a frequency measure of channels watched within the same timeslot of a previous day.

14. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the step of determining said channel is a predictive process based on a frequency measure of channels watched within the same timeslot of a previous week.

15. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the step of determining said channel is a predictive process based on the genre of channels being watched and previously watched.

16. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the step of determining said channel is a predictive process based on recommendations.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the buffering of the portion of a program on said channel continues until a channel of higher interest is found, after which the buffering commences of a portion of a program on said channel of higher interest.

19. (Currently Amended) A method for predictive buffering of programs in a media recorder, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a first signal containing a first set of television programs at a first receiving subsystem;

receiving a second signal containing a second set of television programs at a second receiving subsystem;

buffering at least a portion of one program from the first set of television programs while presenting or recording at least one program from the second set of television programs, wherein said buffering is initiated in a selected time slot and is terminated if a user does not watch said one program within a predetermined interval.

20. (Original)The method of claim 19 wherein selection of the at least one program from the first set of television programs is based on a predictive process.

21. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein selection of the at least one program from the first set of television programs is based on input from the user.

22. (Currently Amended) A method for buffering in a media recorder, the method comprising the steps of:

identifying a program of interest to a user, said program having a first duration; and`

buffering said program for a second duration that is shorter than said first duration whereby only a portion of said program is buffered by starting said buffering at the beginning of a predetermined time slot and ending said buffering at the end of said second duration unless a user starts watching said program.

23. (Original) The method of claim 22 further comprising sensing that the user has started to watch said program, and in response, continuing to buffer a current portion of the program as the user is watching a previously buffered portion of the program.

24. (Original) The method of claim 22 further comprising identifying a second program and buffering said second program at the end of said second duration.

25. (Original) A system for predictive buffering in a media recorder, the system comprising:

a predictive program selection subsystem, wherein the predictive program selection subsystem selects at least one program of interest to a user;

a buffering subsystem that buffers a portion of said one program.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently Amended) A system for predictive buffering in a media recorder, the system comprising:

a predictive channel selection subsystem that selects at least one channel of interest to a user, said channel showing a program having a program duration; and

a buffering subsystem that buffers said one channel for a buffering duration shorter than said program duration if the user does not start watching said channel during said buffering duration.

28. (Original) The system of claim 27, further comprising:

a user identifying subsystem that identifies a watching user.

29 (New). The system of claim 27 wherein said channel selection system selects said channel of interest from a time slot on a grid listing a plurality of time slots corresponding to channels during an extended time period.

30 (New). The system of claim 30 wherein said grid covers a week.

31(New). The system of claim 27 wherein said one channel is selected based on what the viewer has been watching in the past.

32 (New). A method of operating a personal video recorder comprising:

determining if at least one program of interest to a user of the personal video recorder is available for recording, said one program having a program duration;

starting to buffer said one program;

monitoring if the user starts watching said one program during a predetermined period shorter then said program duration; and

terminating said buffering if said user fails to start watching said one program within said predetermined period.

33 (New). The method of claim 32 further comprising receiving an indication that said user has started watching said one program and presenting said one program to the user from its beginning while said one program is being buffered, whereby the user can watch said one program from its beginning to its end.

34 (New). The method of claim 32 further comprising receiving a command from the user to start the presentation of said one program from its beginning.

35 (New). The method of claim 11 wherein said timeslot is selected from a grid defining programs over an extended time period on different channels.

36 (New). The method of claim 35 wherein said grid is a weekly grid and said timeslot defines a program distributed at a particular day, time and channel.